

§ 1470.7

7 CFR Ch. XIV (1–1–14 Edition)

(4) Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, 7 CFR part 1469;

(5) Public land including land owned by a Federal, State, or local unit of government; and

(6) Land used for crop production after June 18, 2008, that had not been planted, considered to be planted, or devoted to crop production for at least 4 of the 6 years preceding that date, unless that land:

(i) Had previously been enrolled in CRP,

(ii) Has been maintained using long-term crop rotation practices as determined by the designated conservationist, or

(iii) Is incidental land needed for efficient operation of the farm or ranch as determined by the designated conservationist.

[75 FR 31653, June 3, 2010, as amended at 76 FR 19684, Apr. 8, 2011]

§ 1470.7 Enhancements and conservation practices.

(a) Participant decisions describing the additional enhancements and conservation practices to be implemented under the conservation stewardship contract will be recorded in the conservation stewardship plan.

(b) NRCS will make available to the public the list of enhancements and conservation practices available to be installed, adopted, maintained, and managed through the CSP.

(c) NRCS will make available bundled suites of conservation activities for participants to voluntarily select to include as part of their conservation stewardship plans. The bundles will be designed to coordinate the installation and adoption of enhancements with each other to address resource concerns in a more comprehensive and cost-effective manner.

(d) CSP encourages the use of other NRCS programs to install conservation practices that are required to meet agreed-upon stewardship thresholds, but the practices may not be compensated through CSP.

§ 1470.8 Technical and other assistance.

(a) NRCS may provide technical assistance to an eligible applicant or participant either directly or through a

technical service provider (TSP) as set forth in 7 CFR part 652.

(b) NRCS retains approval authority over certification of work done by non-NRCS personnel for the purpose of approving CSP payments.

(c) NRCS will ensure that technical assistance is available and program specifications are appropriate so as not to limit producer participation because of size or type or operation or production system, including specialty crop and organic production. In providing technical assistance to specialty crop and organic producers, NRCS will provide appropriate training to field staff to enable them to work with these producers and to utilize cooperative agreements and contracts with nongovernmental organizations with expertise in delivering technical assistance to these producers.

(d) NRCS will assist potential applicants dealing with the requirements of certification under the National Organic Program and CSP requirements concerning how to coordinate and simultaneously meet eligibility standards under each program.

(e) NRCS may utilize the services of State foresters and existing technical assistance programs such as the Forest Stewardship Program of the U.S. Forest Service, in coordinating assistance to NIPF owners.

Subpart B—Contracts and Payments

§ 1470.20 Application for contracts and selecting offers from applicants.

(a) *Submission of contract applications.* Applicants may submit an application to enroll all of their eligible land into CSP on a continuous basis.

(b) *Stewardship threshold requirement.* To be eligible to participate in CSP, an applicant must submit to the designated conservationist for approval, a contract application that:

(1) Indicates the applicant's conservation activities, at the time of application, are meeting the stewardship threshold for at least one resource concern;

(2) Would, at a minimum, meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one priority resource concern in